

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a cocktail of reagents for nucleic acid amplification that are stabilized by inclusion of a reversible inhibitor of undesirable reactions. Such cocktail of reagents eliminates the requirement for separate preparation and quality control of each reagent used in a reaction. Methods to prepare stabilized cocktails and to use stabilized cocktails also are included. The stabilized cocktail compositions also can include reagents to release nucleic acid from cells and to label the nucleic acid, allowing detection of nucleic acid in a sample with a single reagent addition step. The invention also provides kits for performing the above methods.